BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Sanitary and Housing Conditions

OF THE

FYLDE RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year 1923.

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Medical Officer of Health.

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FOR THE YEAR 1923

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my 22nd Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Fylde Rural District, for the year ended 31st December, 1923.

The statistics with regard to the number of births and deaths have again been supplied by the Registrar-General, through the County Public Health Department. The number of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for inward and outward transfers.

The Registrar-General's figures refer to the births and deaths "registered" during the calendar year, and differs slightly from the local totals.

Area.—The area under the jurisdiction of the Rural District Council is now 38,633 statute acres.

The number of inhabited houses in 1923 is 2,836.

The Rateable Value of the District is £136,650, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £569 7s. 6d.

Population.—The Registrar-General estimates the population of the Fylde Rural Area for the year 1923 at 12,910; an increase of 120 on last year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births and Birth-Rate.—According to the statistics supplied by the Registrar General, the number of births registered as occurring in or belonging to the Rural Area during the year ended 31st December, 1923, was 219 (males 105, females 114), an increase of 8 births as compared with the preceding year. Illegitimate births in 1923 numbered 6 (males 1, females 5).

The birth-rate for the Rural Area calculated per 1,000 of the estimated population was 16.9, an increase of 0.5 per 1,000, as compared with last year; and 1.9 per 1,000 below the mean rate of the 10 years, 1913-1922.

The provisional birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1923 was 19.7 per 1,000.

The distribution of the nett births in the Rural Area is shown below :—

Sub-District.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fleetwood ...	23 ...	18 ...	41
Blackpool ...	21 ...	20 ...	41
Kirkham ...	61 ...	76 ...	137
	105	114	219

Deaths and Death-Rates.—The nett deaths actually belonging to the Rural District for the year 1923, according to the statistics supplied by the Registrar-General, numbered 151 ; males 78, females 73. This total includes 8 deaths known as " inward transfers," i.e., deaths of persons whose usual place of residence was in the Rural Area, but who died in some other district, and excludes 106 deaths known as " outward transfers," i.e., deaths of persons occurring in the district whose usual place of residence was elsewhere. The majority of the latter deaths occurred in the Fylde Union Institution.

In the year 1922 the nett deaths totalled 166, and 152 in 1921.

The tabulated statement below supplied by the Registrar General analyses the causes of death, distinguishing males and females.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All Causes (Civilians only)	78	73
Enteric Fever	...	1
Small-Pox	...	...
Measles...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	...
Diphtheria	...	1
Influenza	6	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...
Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	6	13
Rheumatic Fever	...	...
Diabetes	2	...
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	5	9
Heart Disease	8	6
Arterio-Sclerosis	2	1
Bronchitis	3	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	1
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	1	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	...
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth ...	4	1
Suicide	2	1
Other Deaths from Violence...	...	2
Other Defined Diseases	23	22
Causes ill-defined or unknown	2	1
Special Causes (included above)—		
Poliomyelitis	...	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	11	4
Illegitimate	1	...
Total Births	105	114
Legitimate	104	109
Illegitimate	1	5

Population 12,910

The death-rate of the Rural Area for the year under report, calculated on the estimated population of 12,910, was 11.6 per 1,000, as compared with a rate of 12.9 last year, and a mean rate of 12.8 for the 10 years 1913-1922.

The annual death-rate for the Rural Area has only been more favourable than the present rate on three occasions.

The provisional death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year under report was 11.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The distribution of the nett deaths in the Rural Area is shown below :—

Sub-District.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fleetwood	20	14	34
Blackpool	8	15	23
Kirkham	50	44	94
	78	73	151

DEATHS IN TOWNSHIPS.—The tabular statement shown below allocates the corrected number of deaths to the various Townships in the Rural Area, viz. :—

Sub-District.	Township.	No. of Deaths.	
FLEETWOOD	Carleton	12	
	Singleton	3	
	Elswick	5	
	Eccleston (Little)-with-Larbreck	1	
	Hardhorn, Newton and Staining	13	
			34
BLACKPOOL	Marton	23	
			23
KIRKHAM	Freckleton	17	
	Medlar-with-Wesham	33	
	Bryning-with-Kellamergh	2	
	Clifton-with-Salwick	9	
	Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton	4	
	Newton-with-Scales	4	
	Ribby-with-Wrea	9	
	Treales, Roseacre and Wharles	7	
	Warton	0	
	Weeton-with-Preese	2	
	Westby-with-Plumpton	7	
			94
			151

PHTHISIS (PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS).—To this cause were ascribed 7 deaths (males 5, females 2), corresponding to a rate of 0.54 per 1,000, slightly in excess to last year's rate and the mean of the preceding 10 years.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA.—Bronchitis gave rise to 6 deaths and Pneumonia 11 deaths, as compared with 15 and 10 deaths respectively last year.

INFLUENZA contributed 7 fatalities against 5 in 1922.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Amongst infants under the age of 1 year there were 15 deaths (males 11, females 4).

In 1922 there were 20 infant deaths, 19 in 1921, and 23 in 1920.

The distribution of these deaths in 1923, in the sub-districts were as under :—

Sub-district.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fleetwood ...	2 ...	0 ...	2
Blackpool ...	2 ...	2 ...	4
Kirkham ...	7 ...	2 ...	9
	11	4	15

The infant death-rate calculated per 1,000 births was 68, the lowest recorded for the district excepting the year 1919, when the infant death-rate was 58 ; last year the rate was 94 per 1,000, 77 in 1921, and 80 in 1920.

The mean rate of the 10 years 1913-1922 was 87.

The infant mortality for the whole of England and Wales was 69 per 1,000 registered births.

The tabulated statement below compares the birth and death-rates for 1923 with those for the year 1922, and the mean of the preceding 10 years.

Rates per 1,000 of population :—

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
Mean of 10 years (1913-1922)	18.8	12.8	0.49	87
1922	16.4	12.9	0.46	94
1923	16.9	11.6	0.54	68
Increase or Decrease in 1923 *on*—				
10 years average	—1.9	—1.2	+0.05	— 19
Previous year ...	+0.5	—1.3	+0.08	— 26

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1923.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 year.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 Weeks.	4 Weeks and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 9 Months.	9 Months and under 12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes { Certified ...	3	1	2	1	7	3	...	1	2	13
All Causes { Uncertified ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	3
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth, &c. ...	...	...	2	...	2	1	...	...	...	3
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Pemphrgus	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	2
Other Causes	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	3
Totals	3	1	3	1	8	3	...	1	3	15

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 66 cases were notified: 28 Diphtheria, 35 Scarlet Fever, 2 Enteric, and 1 Erysipelas.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 10 Pulmonary cases were notified, and 7 of Other Forms.

10 Tubercular cases received Sanatorium treatment during the year: 3 at High Carley, 3 at Luneside, 2 at Meathop, 1 at the Shropshire Orthopædic Hospital near Oswestry, and one at the Skin Hospital, Salford.

60 Infectious cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Moss Side, viz.: 27 Diphtheria, 31 Scarlet Fever, and 2 Enteric.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Number of cases of infectious disease notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1923:—

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.														HOSPITAL	
	Total Cases at All Ages.	YEARS.												Total Deaths.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to District.
		Under 1.	1-2.	2-3.	3-4.	4-5.	5-10.	10-15.	15-20.	20-35.	35-45.	45-65.	65 and over.			
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	28	...	...	...	4	3	9	2	5	4	1	...	...	1	27	1
Erysipelas...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	35	...	...	...	...	1	15	10	5	3	1	...	...	2	31	2
Enteric Fever (incl. Paratyphoid)	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trench Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentry	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Lune-
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	side
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	10	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	4	1	3	...	7	...	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...
Measles and German Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	83	...	...	...	4	4	28	13	10	12	6	6	...	11	60	5

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.								
0—1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	2	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
25—35	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
35—45	...	1	1	2	1	1	...	...
45—55	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	6	4	4	3	5	2	...	...

10 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and 7 of Other Forms in 1923.

There were 7 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 4 of which were notified in 1923.

The notification of Tuberculosis in the Fylde Rural District is fairly good. In some cases the patient delays too late in obtaining medical advice, and refuses Sanatorium treatment.

The district is under the care of the Medical Officer of of the Elswick Sanatorium. Every week, notifications of

Tuberculosis (if any) are sent to the County Council. The Tuberculosis Officer visits each patient with the Medical Attendant, and where necessary domiciliary or sanatorium treatment is given. On the occasion of death, or removal to a sanatorium, the dwellings are always disinfected.

DIPHTHERIA.

Cases 28, Deaths 1.

These cases occurred in the following districts :—

Month.	District.	No. of Cases.
January	Freckleton	6
January	Warton	1
February	Freckleton	2
February	Warton	1
February	Wrea Green	1
March	Freckleton	4
March	Wrea Green	1
March	Westby	4
April	Freckleton	1
April	Clifton	1
May	Freckleton	1
May	Marton	1
May	Weeton	1
July	Freckleton	1
July	Wrea Green	1
September	Freckleton	1
		28

27 cases received hospital and 1 home treatment. 16 cases occurred in Freckleton, from January to September, as will be observed in the above table. The majority of these were of school age, and, as I observed on one of my visits to the school in this village, that the children used the same pencils indiscrimnately, thus spreading the infection. The fatal case was that of a teacher at the Wrea Green School, and doubtless this was the origin of other cases in Wrea Green and Westby.

SCARLET FEVER

Cases 35, Deaths 2.

These cases occurred in the following months and districts :—

Month.	District.	No. of Cases
January	Marton	2
January	Moss Side	1
January	Carleton	1
January	Staining	2
February	Staining	5
February	Hardhorn	1
February	Newton-with-Scales ...	1
February	Treales	1
March	Plumpton	1
March	Carleton	1
March	Weeton	1
April	Marton	2
May	Newton-with-Scales ...	2
May	Clifton	1
June	Salwick	1
June	Treales	1
June	Elswick	1
July	Marton	2
July	Wesham	1
August	Clifton	1
August	Carleton	1
October	Treales	1
October	Wesham	2
November	Carleton	2
		35

31 Cases received hospital, and 4 home treatment.

This disease occurred principally in Staining, Marton and Carleton. The fatal cases were one belonging to Treales, and one to Wesham. The Treales case originated from a very mild one in Clifton, which was not recognised until desquamation took place. The other case in Wesham was that of a very delicate child, who suffered from Chronic Bronchitis, and the origin was traced to the preceding case at Treales.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Cases 2, Deaths 1.

These cases occurred in July and October in Freckleton. The fatal case was 53 years of age, and had been ill some time before sending for medical assistance.

ERYSIPELAS.

Cases 1, Deaths 0.

This case occurred at Marton.

SMALL-POX.

There have been no cases of Small-Pox during the year.

VACCINATION, 1923.

Number of Primary Vaccinations ...	90
Number of Exemptions	58

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.

Midwives' Act, 1902.—There are 6 Certified Midwives on the County Register practising in the Fylde Rural District.

The County Medical Officer has appointed a Lady Inspector to visit the district, and a part-time Health Visitor, who, on receipt of notification of a birth, visits each case and gives necessary advice.

THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS, as previously mentioned, is under the care of the Medical Officer at the Elswick Sanatorium, near Kirkham.

SCHOOL CLINIC.—The Medical Inspection of School Children has been carried out in all the Schools by the School Medical Officer, acting under the County Council.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC.—Treatment is given at the Preston Royal Infirmary, and at the Victoria Hospital, Blackpool, under a scheme of the County Council.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—There are 3 Hospitals in the district, and one Sanatorium, viz. :—The Fylde Conjoint Isolation Hospital at Moss Side, near Lytham, which is used for Infectious Diseases. This hospital is also used by the following districts :—Fleetwood, Poulton, Thornton, Kirkham, Lytham St. Annes and, occasionally, outlying districts.

THE PRESTON, FYLDE AND GARSTANG HOSPITAL, at Elswick, near Kirkham, is for Small-Pox. The number of beds at the above hospital is not limited.

There is also a Sanatorium at Elswick for Tubercular cases.

THE PRESTON ROYAL INFIRMARY and the VICTORIA HOSPITAL, BLACKPOOL, are used for serious accidents and surgical operations.

THE FYLDE UNION INSTITUTION, at Wesham, has also an Infirmary, and receives necessitous cases, and those of Maternity when required. The accommodation is very good, and the Institution is used by the Fylde Rural District and neighbouring towns.

The total number of inmates on 31st December, 1923, was 278.

As to hospital administration in the Fylde Rural District, committees are formed consisting of representatives from the various Councils of the area

The Cottage Homes in Moor Street, Kirkham, for destitute children from the Fylde District, consist of modern semi-detached houses, each of which is under a Foster-Mother, supervised by a Superintendent and Matron. The total number of children on 31st December, 1923, was 68 (43 boys and 25 girls).

The Ambulance facilities are very good.

The Moss Side Isolation Hospital has a Motor Ambulance for the conveyance of patients to the Institution.

The Kirkham Council and St. John Ambulance Brigade have also a Motor Ambulance for the conveyance of non-infectious and accident cases, which is also used by the Fylde Rural District.

LABORATORY WORK.

Chemical and Bacteriological Work.—30 specimens of sputum were sent to the Elswick Sanatorium for examination, of which 8 were positive and 22 negative.

There have been 76 examinations of swabs for the detection of the diphthentic germ, and some of these proved negative.

398,000 Units of Anti-Toxin were used during the year.

The chemical and bacteriological work is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and the specimens of sputum are sent to the Medical Officer of the Elswick Sanatorium for examination.

The Administration of Local Acts or General Adoptive Acts.—You have adopted the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, and the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, as much as applies to a Rural area.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Water Supply.—The majority of the houses receive their supply from the Fylde Water Board, the water of which is very good and constant. Its source is Grizedale. However, there are still a few houses which rely on stored roof water.

Sanitary conditions requiring notice are water supply to Wharles and part of Treales, the substitution of W.C.'s in Wrea Green and Wesham, and, as regards scavenging in the latter district, the use of covered ash-bins and covered carts.

Rivers and Streams.—No main rivers pass through this district, and, as to pollution of streams, very little takes place.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The more populous townships of Wesham, Freckleton, Clifton and Carleton have their outfall into tidal waters. The drainage of one part of Marton flows into the Blackpool Corporation sewer, and two other portions are dealt with by tanks and filter-beds.

Wrea Green and Warton also flow to tanks, thence to the Ribble. Singleton discharges its drainage into a brook, while the remaining part of the district is dealt with by means of cesspools.

Scavenging is carried out in Wesham, Freckleton and Marton by the Local Authority.

In more sparsely populated districts, the householders are responsible, as the people having land deal with the matter themselves.

The disposal of ashes and house refuse is in part conveyed to tips, and the excreta deposited on land as manure.

Where there are cesspools, they are dealt with by the householders.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.—There are no lodging-houses, and the only offensive trade is that of a tripe-boiling place.

Full particulars as regards closet accommodation, disinfecting and inspections will be found in the Inspector's Report.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

A register is kept of all Factories and Workshops in the district, which are visited periodically.

Factories	4
Workshops	49

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.—Number of Workshops on the Register at the end of the year :—

Shoemakers	4
Cloggers	3
Joiners	17
Blacksmiths	14
Dressmakers	6
Bakers	5
	49

SCHOOLS.—There are 19 Schools in your district School closure took place on 5 occasions during 1923.

Month.	School.	Disease.	Period.
March	...C.E. Marton Moss ...	...Measles	...2 weeks
May	...C.E. Carleton ...	...Measles	...2 weeks
May	...C.E. Newton-with-Scales	...Scarlet Fever	...2 weeks
May	...R.C. Wesham ...	...Influenza	...2 weeks
November	...C.E. Weeton ...	...Whooping Cough	...2 weeks

Several schools were visited, and the children examined especially in Wrea Green, Singleton and Freckleton. I found the last mentioned school was not in a very satisfactory condition, and that the ventilation was defective. I also considered that these buildings might be made more up-to-date.

Otherwise the sanitary conditions of the schools are good on the whole, and they are always disinfected after closure for infectious diseases. All the schools, with the exception of Treales, are supplied with Fylde water. This latter place obtains its water from a pump.

FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—This, on the whole, is good. No milk is imported into the district.

Two cows at Elswick were excluded from a herd as being Tuberculous.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshop Orders are carried out by the Fylde Rural Authority.

The Regulations under the Order of L.G.B. were adopted 1st November, 1889.

There are 283 Cowkeepers, and 11 Registered Dairymen or Milksellers.

The Dairies and Cowsheds are inspected from time to time.

The County Analyst declared 12 samples of milk purchased by the Police Authorities to be genuine.

Bakehouses.—The Sanitary Condition of the Bakehouses is satisfactory.

The condition of the Slaughter-houses is also good, but there is no public Abbatoir.

There are 10 Slaughter-houses in the district, which are all registered.

Part of a carcase was seized and condemned for being Tubercular during 1923.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The following samples were taken by the County Constabulary during the year ended 31st December, 1923 :—

14	Milk	Genuine.
1	Margarine	,,
2	Coffee	,,
3	Lard	,,
1	Mustard	,,
1	Ham and Tongue Paste	,,
1	Baking Powder	,,

Public Health Staff.—The Staff consists of a Medical Officer (part time) and a Sanitary Inspector, whose salaries are partly contributed by the County Council.

The County Council have also a Health Visitor, for visiting maternity cases (part time) for this district.

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year—

(a) Total	104
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts of 1919 or 1923 :—	
(i.) By the Local Authority...	Nil
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	Nil
Number of houses in course of erection under Council's Building Scheme	Nil

Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation :—

Have any advances been made during 1923—

(a) By loans ?	Nil
(b) By subsidy ?	Nil

Unfit Dwelling-Houses Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	144
Have the particulars of these inspections been fully recorded as specified in the Regulations ?	Yes
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfiit for human habitation.	Nil
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	4

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
	(a) By owners	4
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

In conclusion, taking the statistics on the whole, I think we compare very favourably with those of preceding years and also those of England and Wales.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES COURT

Fylde Rural District Council

To the Chairman and Members of the Fylde Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have again the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report and summary of work done for the year ending December 31st, 1923, this being my 34th Annual Report.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Total number of Preliminary Notices ...	77
Legal Notices by order of Council	4
Number of letters written	240
Number of defects rectified	77
New drains put in for waste and refuse water	7
Existing drains opened, cleaned and rectified	15
Cellar drains improved	1
Offensive ashpits improved	4
New ashbins provided	5
New W.C.'s put in place of privies	10
Defective privies repaired	4
Privies and ashpits cleaned under Notice ...	2
Nuisance caused by sewage running out on to side of highway abated	10
Sewage tanks cleaned	6
Sewage tanks made	1
New pails for closets provided	3
Farm yards drained	2
Nuisance from pig sweepings abated ...	1

Ditches cleaned	1
Yards cleaned of filth	1
Drains tested	52
Defective roofs of houses repaired	4
Estimated number of privy closets in district	1796
,, ,, water closets	943
,, ,, waste water closets ...	16
,, ,, pail closets	168

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

These have, as usual, been well kept and no cause for complaint has arisen during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

These are well kept.

SEWERS.

Sewer extensions have been made during the year at Wesham and Freckleton.

In the township of Carleton, owing to the number of new houses being erected, it is essential that some extension should be made to the sewage scheme for, as reported to your Council in November, the greater half of the houses are unprovided with a sewer. Consideration has been given to the question of improving the Filter Bed at Lancaster Road, Marton, and your Council have ordered a new Filter Bed to be put down which work is now in progress. Improvements to the filtration of the sewage at Wrea Green have also received your attention, and the Parochial Committee there are dealing with the matter.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases enquired into	... ...	79
Dwelling-houses disinfected after		
	Scarlet Fever ...	35
,, ,,	Diphtheria ...	28
,, ,,	Typhoid	2
,, ,,	Phthisis	14
Number of Schools disinfected	... ...	5

HOUSING AND TOWN-PLANNING ACT.

Number of Houses inspected ...	... ...	144
,, ,, condemned	... ...	Nil
,, ,, improved ...	... ...	4
,, ,, demolished	... ...	Nil
Number of notices under Section 15 ...	...	4
Number of houses improved under Section 15		4

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Proceedings were taken in four cases, two for not having obtained the necessary certificates of habitation, and two for not having submitted plans and provided the necessary sanitary arrangements. Convictions were obtained in all four cases.

PUBLIC HEALTH WATER ACT.

Your Council have had under consideration the improvement of the water supply at Naze Farm, Freckleton. Fylde water is laid along the private road to within about 250 yards of the farm, but inasmuch as this main is privately owned considerable difficulty has been experienced in arranging terms.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—

Failure to affix abstract	Nil
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under P.N.A. ...	2
Notified by H.M. Inspector	2
Reports of action taken sent to H.M. Inspector	Nil
Underground Bakehouses	Nil
Means of escape in case of Fire provided ...	1

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

During the year 12 cowsheds have been inspected in conjunction with the Chief County Inspector, and the conditions noted. In one instance a new cowshed is being erected on our suggesting same to the owner.

Improvements have been effected in several others by having the inlets to drains brought to the outside of the buildings.

Samples of milk were taken on a farm at Elswick, which showed two cases in the herd as giving Tubercular milk, these were at once excluded from the herd.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS AND NEW HOUSES.

During the year 805 inspections of new buildings have been made.

104 new houses have been erected and passed for habitation. The houses are situate as follows :—Carleton 33, Marton 50, Wesham 6, Hardhorn 9, Newton-with-Scales 3, Greenhalgh 1, Warton 1, Freckleton 1.

The water supply is as follows :—102 Fylde water, 1 stored roof water, and 1 new well.

Number of rooms in above houses :—

Houses with	1	living room	...	...	...	2
,,	2	,,	...	...	...	89
,,	3	,,	...	...	...	13
,,	1	sleeping room		...	...	2
,,	2	,,		...	...	47
,,	3	,,		...	...	52
,,	4	,,		...	...	3

The closet accommodation for the above is 100 water closets, 4 pail closets.

Again many sanitary improvements have been made without the same having to be brought to the Council's notice, and for this I thank the owners.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JAS. JOLLY,

Sanitary Inspector.